

REPORT NO.

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1. The peremilovo kolkhoz in Vladimirskaia Oblast, Yuryev-Polski Rayon was a small kolkhoz consisting of 27 households with a population of 80 persons of whom about 50 were able to work. It was one of seven small kolkhozes under the agricultural administration of the Selsoviet which was located in the village of Nesterov three kilometers west of Peremilovo. The Selsoviet was administered by a chairman, a secretary, two agronomists and several other members. The Selsoviet had its own militia, warehouses and stores. All sowing plans, production quotas and new methods of cultivation were transmitted from the Selsoviet to the kolkhozes. The two agronomists visited the kolkhozes advising them as to the best methods of cultivation, fertilization etc. The MTS was located in Sima (5641N-3933E) and the rayon fertilizer center in Yuryev-Polski (5630N-3941E), about 30 kilometers from Peremilovo.

2. Ther Peremilovo kolkhoz owned approximately 1,000 hectares; 400 hectares of arable land and 600 hectares of woodlands and meadows. Plowing, harrowing and sowing of the kolkhoz land was done by tractors and machines of the MTS in Sima. Horses also were used for cultivation of the land. Each tractor plowed about eight hectares every 24 hours. The acreage and kind of crops to be planted were determined by the Selsoviet upon the recommendation of

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the agronomist and in consultation with the kolkhoz management. I recall that the following crops were planted in 1949: wheat, 30 hectares; rye, 100; oats, 80; barley, 5; potatoes, 30; tobacco, 5; buckwheat, 20; peas, 5; vetch, 8; sugar beet, 3; turnips, 2; clover, 80. The tobacco was as high as a man and of good quality. The kolkhoz received money and sugar in exchange for the tobacco. I recall that the yield of the wheat crop was 15 centners per hectare and that of rye, 12 centners per hectare. The crops were rotated. Winter rye was planted in the fall on 100 hectares of land. In the spring about 80 hectares of the same field were planted with clover. The rye matured in the summer and was harvested while the clover continued growing on the field for three years. At the end of three years the clover field was plowed and planted with potatoes and after the potato crop the field was again planted with rye. The fields were fertilized mostly with manure obtained from the kolkhoz dairy, MTB-molochnevoynaya banka to which each household had to contribute a quota of manure from its stable. Phosphates were also available from the depot in Turpynskiy but the kolkhoz seldom took advantage of this facility, partly because it required the use of the kolkhoz truck for hauling and the necessary expenditure of money for gasoline, and partly because the kolkhozniks had more faith in the use of manure as fertilizer.

#### Agricultural Machinery

3. Both mechanized and horse-drawn agricultural machinery was used by the kolkhoz. The MTS in Sima had wheel tractors equipped with four plows each; four tractors were assigned to three kolkhozes. Each tractor pulled three sowing machines. Combines were horse-drawn; one combine was assigned to three kolkhozes. In addition, each kolkhoz had two binders of its own which were horse drawn. The kolkhoz had to pay in kind for the use of the MTS machinery from Sima.

#### Livestock and Poultry

4. The kolkhoz had 18 milk cows, 25 horses, 80 pigs of which 10 were breeding sows, 300 hens of a special breed, and a number of geese, ducks, and some beehives. The government delivery quota in milk was 300 liters per cow per year. There was also a quota in eggs, chickens, pigs and other poultry.

#### Life in the kolkhoz

5. Each kolkhoz household has its own plot of land of three quarters of a hectare. On this plot the kolkhozniks plant vegetables for the use of the household; they also keep some poultry, chickens, geese, ducks, a pig or two, a cow, some beehives and some pigeons. There is little fruit because of the cold climate. The food of the kolkhozniks is simple, mostly cabbage soup and porridge. Meat, eggs and butter are eaten rarely, because there is not enough of these products and because they bring a good price on the market. Sugar is scarce and usually the juice of the sugar beet was used instead. Those who have honey use it for sweets. Candy is a luxury. I did not taste any candy until I was ten years old. My father brought some from Moscow where he worked as a carpenter. The kolkhozniks are dissatisfied because the government takes everything so that practically nothing remains for the kolkhozniks.
6. There was an old wooden church in the village of Peremilovo but there was no priest when I was there. The church was used for storage of grain. I had no religious education whatsoever and I don't know any prayers.
7. The Shoshka River, a tributary of the Nerl, flows past the village. In summer time the villagers bathe in it and catch fish with nets.

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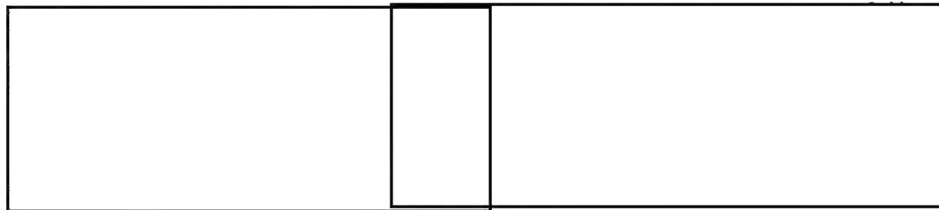
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to fish with hook and line. In winter time the villagers bathed on Saturdays in wash tubs after heating the water on the stove. It was not considered good for a person to take a bath too often. There were no toothbrushes in the village since, the kolchozniks used to say, it was not good to brush teeth. To the best of my knowledge there was no venereal disease. There was no doctor in the village although a government physician would come periodically to the village to examine the people. A sick person received free hospitalization in Sima. On the whole the people were healthy. Although we did not have many flies or cockroaches, the government gave us some powder to use against them. The outhouses had board floors with a hole in it. We used lime to keep the flies away.

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